



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

Colorado: The Cost of Inaction

Colorado Families Suffer

Colorado insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$4,989.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$11,195.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$25,119, a 124 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 38.9 percent of projected Colorado median family income.

More uninsured Coloradans

- ✓ Every day, 100 Coloradans lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 1,434,000 Coloradans under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 32.4 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 813,188 Coloradans under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 18.5 percent of the under 65 population.

Coloradans pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Colorado families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,100 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Colorado have a combined market share of 53 percent.

Colorado Businesses Suffer

Fewer Coloradans have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 68.9 percent of Coloradans under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 62.4 percent of Coloradans had coverage through their employer.

Fewer Colorado small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2000, 53.0 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 43.0 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

Colorado Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Colorado spent \$21.7 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$4,717 per capita, and is 11.1 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Colorado economy will lose \$2.1 billion - \$4.2 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.